



SUBMISSION TO THE FIRST GLOBAL STOCKTAKE:

Human Rights-Based Climate Action

The Global Stocktake (GST) must cut across the interlinkages between climate change and human rights to best inform the changes needed to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

Read the full submission:



<https://climaterights.org/resources/global-stocktake-human-rights-based-climate-action/>

Why A Human Rights-Based GST

1. Human rights-based climate action is more effective, according to the IPCC.
2. All Parties to the Paris Agreement have international human rights obligations.
3. The Paris Agreement recognizes that "Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity" as well as the need for a just transition, food security, and public participation.

A human-rights based GST starts with an **inclusive, participatory, and diverse** process.

Mitigation

- **Fossil fuel phase-out:**
 - The continued reliance on fossil fuels is leading to human rights violations, both directly for communities faced with extractive projects and indirectly through the warming it causes.
- **A just and rights-based transition:**
 - To achieve systems transformation, Parties must have a rights-based design and implementation of NDCs, ensuring public participation and Indigenous Peoples' rights to self-determination and Free, Prior and Informed Consent.
- **No false Solutions:**
 - Technologies such as geoengineering and Carbon Capture and Storage are unproven at scale, prolong fossil fuel dependency, and bring an unacceptable risk to communities.

The GST should assess negative human rights impacts related to fossil fuels and purported climate solutions, and effectively inform Parties on human rights-based mitigation action across all sectors.

Loss and Damage

- Loss and damage from climate disasters and slow-onset events is harming human rights, disproportionately impacting those in vulnerable and marginalized situations.
- **The GST should assess these human rights impacts and the gaps in addressing them**, including non-economic losses such as damage to Indigenous Peoples' collective rights to autonomy and self-determination on their lands, culture, spiritual values, and livelihoods.

Adaptation

The GST should assess how Parties' adaptation plans are taking a rights-based approach, are locally-led, ecosystem-based, gender-responsive, and build on Indigenous and local communities' knowledge, while focusing on capacity development and allowing for meaningful participation of the most vulnerable, to reduce the risks of maladaptation.

Finance

- Adequate and predictable, grants-based and accessible climate finance is crucial to deliver on climate ambition, equity and human rights.
- The inadequate provision of climate finance is a climate injustice in violation of the human rights of those people most impacted. **The GST must assess these gaps, and the accessibility of funds for communities and Peoples at the frontlines.**
- **The GST must assess how finance projects have respected, protected, and promoted human rights from planning and design through to implementation and monitoring.**

Specific dimensions of human rights-based climate action

The GST must assess how Parties are taking the following aspects into account in the process of designing and implementing their climate plans:

- Respecting the rights to access to information and public participation.
- Promoting gender equality in a systematic manner.
- Recognizing and building on Indigenous and local knowledge, while respecting the rights to participation, and Free, Prior and Informed Consent.
- Respecting rights related to land and resources as recognized by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas.

The GST has an important role to play to assess how the climate crisis, climate damaging activities, and misguided policy responses, are contributing to the growing violence against environmental human rights defenders, and inform Parties on how to effectively protect these defenders.